RUSHDEN

Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the Year ending

December 31st, 1906.

RUSHDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT
For the year ending December 31st, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

The Rushden Urban District contains an estimated population of 14,440, as against 14,089 of last year. The number of inhabited houses is 2,888.

The number of births registered has been 351, giving a birth-rate of 24·30 per 1,000. The registered deaths have been 122, giving a death-rate of 8·373 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality has been 113·988 per 1,000, of which eight have been premature.

Zymotic Diseases.

Smallpox.—No case has been reported.

Diphtheria.—Two cases have been reported: no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.—Fifty-eight cases have been reported, with five deaths, four being between one and five years, and one over five years.

Measles.—Not notifiable: no death.

Enteric Fever.—One case reported: no death.

Puerperal Fever.—One case: no death.

Erysipelas.—Seven cases reported: one death.

Whooping Cough.—Not notifiable: no death.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis have caused six deaths—one between one and two months, one between six and seven months, one between seven and eight months, one between 10 and 11 months, one between one and five years, one between 15 and 25 years.

Respiratory Diseases.

Bronchitis has caused 13 deaths—one between one and two weeks, one between one and two months, one between four and five months, one between five and six months, one between eight and nine months, four between one and five years, two between 25 and 65 years, one over 65 years.

Pneumonia has been accountable for four deaths, one between 5 and 15 years, two between 25 and 65 years, one over 65 years.

Phthisis has caused 13 deaths—seven between 15 and 25 years, six between 25 and 65 years.

Other Tubercular Diseases have caused five deaths—one between eight and nine months, two between one and five years, one between 5 and 15 years, one between 25 and 65 years.

Influenza has caused one death—over 65 years of age.

Heart Disease

has been responsible for seven deaths—two between 5 and 15 years, three between 25 and 65 years, and two over 65 years.

Cancer and Malignant Disease

have caused eight deaths—five between 25 and 65 years, three over 65 years.

Remarks.

The infant mortality has been slightly in excess of last year. The principal cause of the large infant mortality is improper feeding. In the early part of this year a number of cards were circulated, containing rules for the proper feeding of infants, yet the infant mortality has increased. It has been generally supposed that cow's milk contains numerous microbes and that it ought to be sterilized before use. Only a few days ago, a deputation, including some of the heads of the profession, waited upon the President of the Local Government Board, and *protested against* the sterilization of milk, and stated that it was injurious and caused rickets and other diseases.

The deaths from Phthisis have been three times that of last year. Some Medical Officers of Health are advocating the notification of that disease, while others, like myself, do not agree with that doctrine. The Notification Act has not prevented any one of the diseases it was promised to do, and would, in my opinion, only cause an increased expense on the rates. With regard to the so-called *prevention* of consumption by sending patients to Sanatoria, they are sent after the disease is established, sometimes in an advanced stage. Where they are under proper and constant supervision, well and suitably fed, with nothing to do but sit or walk about in a healthy situation, they certainly improve as long as they are there; but how is it when they return to their homes in a town and resume their work in a crowded factory? Ere long they begin to lose what they have gained, and gradually, some rapidly, decline. In my opinion, the only way to prevent consumption is to live a different life, free from the excitement and pleasure of the present day. The craze for pleasure, and the constant restlessness and excitement, are rapidly sapping the constitution of the present age, not only as regards Consumption, but in the alarming increase of Insanity, for which the present system of education is sadly to blame. Children of tender years are forced beyond their strength, and their brains exhausted by cramming with a lot of useless knowledge which is utterly worthless in enabling them to get a living. Science is now, and has been for some years, striving to beat Nature, but, depend upon it, Nature will conquer in the end.

During the year the waterworks have been completed, and a constant supply of good water is available. Several samples of water have been examined—those found polluted were condemned. Owing to an outbreak of measles, the Infant Schools were closed on Dec. 13 until after the Christmas holidays.

The Sewage Farm is well managed and the results are satisfactory.

All factories, workshops, workplaces, etc., have been visited and inspected at intervals during the year.

The low death-rate, 8·36 per 1,000, conclusively shows the sanitary state of the town, whereas the average death-rate of England and Wales is 15 per 1,000.

In conclusion, I beg to tender my best thanks to your late and present Inspectors for the assistance they have so courteously rendered in carrying out our united duties.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED H. MORRIS, M.D.,

Fel. Royal Inst. of Public Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the year ending December 31st, 1906.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE

. RUSHDEN .

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

As Inspector of the Urban District of Rushden, I beg to submit to you my report for the year ending December 31st, 1906.

Slaughter Houses.

There are now five registered and four licensed slaughter houses on the register, all of which are visited regularly by your Inspector.

Application for a licence for one slaughter house was refused, pending satisfactory alterations to premises.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders and Regulations.

There are now 44 names on the register—33 cowkeepers and dairymen and 11 purveyors of milk. During the year 10 notices have been served for defects found or contraventions of the above Orders or Regulations, viz.: Three for drainage, three for cleansing and lime-washing, two for keeping swine in cowsheds, and two for insanitary surroundings, all of which, with one exception, are now complied with.

The following is a table showing the work done by your Inspector:—

Nature of Cases dealt with.

Visits to houses where Zymotic Diseases have occurred	140
Houses Disinfected	69
House-to-house Inspections	93
Inspections of Factories and Workshops	113
,, Yards and Stables	13
,, Outworkers' Premises	149
,, Bakehouses	16
,, Slaughter Houses	19
,, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ...	49
,, Schools	4
,, Fishmongers, Greengrocers, and Ice-Cream Shops	8
Re-inspections of work in progress	255
Contravention of Bye-laws	2
Complaints received and investigated	21
Drains tested	45
Drains re-laid	33
Drains repaired	8

Nuisances Discovered.

Premises requiring repairs	26
,, ,, cleansing and limewashing ...	26
,, overcrowded	9
Drains found defective	32
,, ,, stopped	17
Defective sanitary fittings	81
,, yard surfaces	2
,, eaves and downspouts	15
Animals improperly kept	5
Offensive accumulations	7
Total number of nuisances ...	253

Informal Notices served	77
,, ,, complied	60
,, ,, in abeyance	17

The following is a list of

Factories and Workshops

for the past year. There are 53 factories and 102 workshops, viz.:

Boot and Shoe Workshops	37
Joiners, Cabinet Makers, etc.	13
Bakehouses	21
Dressmakers	12
Plumbers and Painters	6
Blacksmiths	3
Metal Workers	2
Cycle Makers	2
Wax Makers	1
Harness Maker	1
Domestic Workshops	3
Workplaces	1
	102

Home Work.

Seventy-two lists of outworkers have been received from employers, twice in the year, notifying 902 outworkers. Three lists of outworkers have been received from employers once in the year, notifying 15 outworkers, all of whom, with the exception of five in the tailoring trade, are employed in the boot and shoe industry.

The addresses of 95 outworkers have been forwarded to other Councils, and 10 have been received from other Councils.

Seven cases of failure to affix the Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Act have been notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories and three cases of nuisances have been notified by H.M. Inspector to this Authority.

There are 2,888 houses inhabited; there are 50 houses empty, and 22 houses have been erected during the past year.

The work of draining old property, laying on town water, and substituting the water carriage for the pail closets or conservancy system is now well in hand and your inspector hopes to be able to complete the work by the end of March, when the contract for scavenging lapses.

I beg to thank the Members of the Council and their Officers for the courtesy and kindness with which they have received the matters I have brought before them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HARRY HUNTER,

Sanitary Inspector.

Council Buildings,

Rushden,

February 1st, 1907.

Chas. Cross, "Echo" Office, Rushden.